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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development
Report: #2025-INFO-32
Date: April 25, 2025

Subject:

Nomination Period for the 2025 DECAC Environmental Achievement Awards

Recommendation:

Receive for information

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise that the nomination period for the 2025 Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Awards is now open. DECAC is accepting nominations until June 27, 2025. Awards will be presented at a ceremony in the Fall (date to be determined).

2. Background

2.1 Since 2003, DECAC has recognized and acknowledged the environmental achievements of Durham residents and organizations in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors through the DECAC Environmental Achievement Awards. Beginning with five award categories, the DECAC Awards have grown to eight awards presented every other year.

2.2 Award categories include:

- a. **Eric Krause Innovation Award** for forward-thinking and innovative efforts to encourage positive change through plans, policies, or initiatives related to enhancing the environment and building climate resilience;

- b. **Irene Kock Environmental Awareness Award** for fostering effective communication, sharing knowledge, and exhibiting leadership in helping others learn about the environment and climate change;
- c. **George A. Scott Stewardship Award** for efforts to help maintain, protect, and preserve Durham's environment;
- d. **Dr. J. Murray Speirs Restoration Award** for efforts to help restore the natural environment and support climate adaptation;
- e. **Jessica Markland Partnership Award** for co-operative efforts of those who strive to enhance the environment and promote sustainability by building partnerships with public and community interests, and businesses;
- f. **Evlyn Stroud Lifetime Achievement Award** dedication to protecting the environment and mitigating the impacts of climate change;
- g. **John G. Goodwin Sustainable Group Award** for a group that has gone above and beyond to make a positive impact on the environment through education and/or stewardship; and
- h. **Lois James Youth Leadership Award** for an elementary or secondary school student who has contributed to the protection of Durham's environment.

2.3 In 2023, DECAC partnered with Ontario Tech's Brilliant Energy Institute to present the DECAC Environmental Achievement Awards at their Durham Climate Forum. The event was a resounding success, so DECAC will be partnering once again with the Brilliant Energy Institute for the 2025 Awards ceremony. The Forum will be held in the Fall, but an exact date has yet to be determined.

2.4 Interested individuals and organizations are invited to fill out the [2025 DECAC Awards Online Nomination Form](#) until June 27, 2025.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

3.1 An overview of the 2023 Durham Climate Forum and DECAC Environmental Achievement Awards was provided in [Report #2023-INFO-105](#).

3.2 An overview of DECAC's 2025 Workplan was provided in [Report #2025-CG-2](#).

4. Relationship to Strategic Plan

4.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action
 - E5. Respect the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, and agricultural lands.
- b. Strong Relationships
 - S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The nomination period for the 2025 DECAC Environmental Achievement Awards is open until June 27, 2025. Nominations should be submitted through the [2025 DECAC Awards Online Nomination Form](#). Questions regarding the DECAC Environmental Achievement Awards Program should be directed to Amanda Bathe, Senior Planner, Amanda.Bathe@durham.ca.
- 5.2 Staff will keep Council apprised of the date for the Durham Climate Forum and, following the Forum, will report back on the awards recipients.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Community Growth and
Economic Development